(ii) Increase in the total number of inhabited villages from 587556 as per 1991 census to 593732 as per 2001 census; and

(iii) De-electrification of already electrified villages reported by certain States due to natural calamities, theft of the materials and application of new definition.

NTPCS bids under NELP

669. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC proposes to bid under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in order to diversify into the oil and gas sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is its existing stake in up-stream LNG both in the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) NTPC is exploring the possibility of bidding under New Exploration Licensing Policy-VI (NELP-VI). There are 55 blocks on offer by the Government under NELP-VI. NTPC is in the process of identifying the blocks of interest and suitable technical partner. Earlier, a consortium comprising of NTPC Ltd., Canoro Resources Ltd. and Geo Petrol International has already been allotted an oil exploration block AA-ONN-2003/2 in Arunachal Pradesh under NELP-V. NTPC has 40% stake in this consortium.

(c) At present, NTPC does not have any upstream stake in LNG either in India or abroad.

Electricity to people Below Poverty Line

670. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a scheme to provide electricity to the people living Below the Poverty Line in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof;